

RM-10808

Comment by: Joseph R. Swingle W9DGW

6 Beechwood Lane
Largo, FL 33770-1803

Phone: 727-584-1564

E-mail: jswingle@juno.com

It is recommended that this partition be denied.

Like it or not, emergency communications (emcom) has become the lifeblood of Amateur Radio. To support this inherited charter, one of which I am personally proud, it requires the most versatile operators we in the ranks can possibly train and license.

The Morse Code is a fundamental skill required for emergency communications. I have provided a detailed paper explaining this position as an attachment to my response to RM-10806. Because of the importance of Morse, and because we need the largest possible pool of Morse qualified operators to carry out our emcom charter, the tests for our licenses must assure at least a minimal skill in Morse, as it now does, plus as much skill in the associated technologies as it is possible to include. The limits of the technical examination should be as high as possible without limiting the growth of our fraternity. In emcom, Amateurs need both technical and Morse skills, as they always have had.